

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 MC-02

ACDA-10 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /091 W

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O 241330Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7081

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2548

BANGKOK FOR AMBASSADOR SAXBE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN PK US

SUBJECT: INDIAN MEDIA CRITICISM OF REPORTED US ARMS SALES TO
PINDI CONTINUES

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE REPORTED US DECISION TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO
TO PAKISTAN RECEIVED EXTENSIVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE CONTINUING
IN INSIDE PAGES IN THE INDIAN NEWSPAPERS FEB. 24. NEWS
DISPATCHES ALSO NOTED THAT THE DELAY IN AMBASSADOR SAXBE'S
ARRIVAL IS LINKED TO THE FORTHCOMING US ANNOUNCEMENT. ALL INDIA
RADIO LED ITS FEB. 24 MORNING BROADCASTS BY ANNOUNCING
THAT A US DECISION IS "REPORTED TO BE IMMINENT."
END SUMMARY.

1. COVERAGE OF THE REPORTED US DECISION DOMINATED FRONTPAGES
OF INDIAN NEWSPAPERS APPEARING FEB. 24 MORNING. MANY INFLUENTIAL
PAPERS ACCORDED THE STORY THE LEAD NEWS SPOT WITH FRONTPAGE
HEADLINES: "INDIA TOLD OF US ARMS DECISION" (STATESMAN).
HEADLINES OF SOME MAJOR DAILIES UNDERScoreD THAT US GIVES INDIAN
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NUCLEAR BLAST AS AN EXCUSE: "US CITES INDIA'S N-TEST FOR REARMING

PAKISTAN" (HINDUSTAN TIMES).

2. IDENTICAL REPORTS BASED ON THE UNITED NEWS OF INDIA ACCOUNTS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE LEAD THAT THE US GOVERNMENT IS "UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE FORMALLY COMMUNICATED" TO NEW DELHI ITS DECISION TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO, ADDING THAT A LETTER ABOUT THE US DECISION HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN DELHI TWO DAYS AGO AND THAT WASHINGTON WILL ANNOUNCE THE DECISION FEB. 24.

3. FOLLOWING THE LEAD PARAGRAPH THE NEWS ACCOUNTS STATED THAT WASHINGTON HAS "JUSTIFIED ITS ACTION ON THE PLEA THAT INDIA CONDUCTED A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION LAST YEAR" BECAUSE IT WAS "VITALLY INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE REGION."

4. COVERAGE MENTIONED THAT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN WILL CANCEL HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND OPINED THAT THE US DECISION IS "BOUND TO CAUSE WIDESPREAD RESENTMENT IN INDIA."

5. NEWSPAPERS ALSO USED WASHINGTON-BASED PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ACCOUNTS WHICH SPECULATED THAT THE US DECISION WOULD BE MADE WHEN THE SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER GRECHKO IS IN INDIA. ADVANCE STORIES BASED ON HIS VISIT OBSERVED THAT "CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE" IS BEING ATTACHED TO THE GRECHKO VISIT" IN VIEW OF THE REPORTED DECISION OF THE US....AND THE SUPPLIES OF CHINESE MILITARY HARDWARE" TO PINDI.

6. COMMENTING ON THE GRECHKO VISIT, THE LEADING HINDI-LANGUAGE INDEPENDENT DAILY, NAV BHARAT TIMES, OF DELHI, JUDGED HIS VISIT "MAY WELL PROVE TO BE A DETERRENT AND THE US AND CHINA MAY BE FORCED TO RETHINK ON THE SIZE AND THE SHAPRE OF MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN."

7. REPORTING ON AMBASSADOR SAXBE'S DELAYED ARRIVAL, NEWSPAPERS NOTED THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION WHEN IT HAS NO AMBASSADOR IN DELHI.

8. IN A WASHINGTON-DATELINED DISPATCH, WARREN UNNA WROTE IN THE STATESMAN: "IT HAS EMPHATICALLY DENIED HERE THAT MR. SAXBE HIMSELF HAD DECIDED TO REMAIN IN BANGKOK TO TRY TO FORCE THE US GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO CHANGE ITS MIND ABOUT LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO. MR. SAXBE IS CONSIDERED TOO PRAGMATIC A POLITICIAN TO TILT WITH WINDMILLS."

9. THE INDEPENDENT AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA OF CALCUTTA, RAN A LEAD EDITORIAL, "SAXBE DELAYED," WHICH DECLARED: "THE POSTPONEMENT OF SAXBE'S ARRIVAL IN NEW DELHI IS A POLITICAL EVENT TO WHICH SPECIAL SIGNIFICANT CANNOT BUT BE ATTACHED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LATEST PHASE OF INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS." TERMING

CANCELLATION OF THE CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION CEREMONY "WITHOUT
PRECEDENT IN THE DIPLOMATIC HISTORY," THE NEWSPAPER INTERPRETED:
"THE DELAY IS CONNECTED WITH WASHINGTON'S DECISION ON RESUMPTION
OF ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN IN THE FACE OF INDIA'S STRONG
PROTEST." THE EDIT HELD: "MR. SAXBE
HAS BEEN PUT IN AN UNENVIABLE POSITION BY HIS BOSSES."SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE02548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750064-0723
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750219/aaaaaqm.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN MEDIA CRITICISM OF REPORTED US ARMS SALES TO PINDI CONTINUES
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006